Comprehensive crop insurance scheme

*327. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic objectives of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) what are the categories of farmers and crops to whom it is applicable and the number of such farmers covered during the last five years;

(c) what are the categories of farmers which have been left out;

(d) what is the extent of coverage, in financial terms, in respect of each insured farmers;

(e) whether it is a fact that the claims paid payable far exceed the insurance premia recovered during the last five years; if so, to what extent; and

(f) whether in this farmers' decade of 1990-99, Government propose to frame and implement a Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme to cover all areas of the country, all crops, and all farmers, irrespective of the fact whether or not they have taken loans from cooperatives, commercial or regional rural banks; and if so, by when such a scheme would be implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The basic objectives of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) are:—

(i) To provide a measure of financial support to farmers in the event of a crop failure as a result of drought, flood etc.

(ii) To restore the credit eligibility of farmers, after a crop failure, for the next crop season.

(iii) To support and stimulate production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

(b) All farmers availing crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses crops are entitled for crop insurance coverage under the CCIS. Cumulatively 2.44 crores farmers were covered during 1985-86 to 1989-90.

(c) The farmers who don't avail themselves of crop loans for growing the insured crops are not entitled for crop insurance coverage under the CCIS.

(d) The extent of coverage in financial terms is 100 per cent of the crop loan subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer, irrespective of amount of crop loan disbursed.

(e) Yes, Sir. From Kharif 1985 to the end of Kharif 1989 total claims payable were of the order of Rs. 609.53 crore as against premia income of Rs. 87.74 crore only.

(f) No, Sir. The proposal regarding inclusion of non-loanee farmers under the CCIS has been considered and not found feasible for implementation. As regards all areas, the CCIS already envisages its implementation in any area of an implementing State/Union Territory provided it has the yield data for last 5 years as also capability of conducting 16 crop cutting experiments at the end of every season in each of the unit area. Most of the implementing States are not able to implement the CCIS in all areas because of non-availability of data. Once the required statistical data gets generated, it would become possible to implement the CCIS in all areas.

It is not proposed to include any other crop under the CCIS for the present because losses of the Central/State Governments in running the

CCIS are already very high. Besides, the idea of the Government is to gain some more experience in respect of the crops presently covered under the CCIS. However, the matter regarding inclusion of Cotton and Sugarcane in the CCIS has been referred for advice to the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) constituted recently in the Ministry of Agriculture.

*328. [*Transferred to the 6th September, 1990*]

Losses of the State Farms Corporation of India

*329. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the accumulated losses of the State Farms Corporation of India since its inception;

(b) what were its losses during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down the Corporation; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken by Government to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The accumulated losses of the SFCI since its inception upto 31st March, 1989 are Rs. 813.45 lakhs.

(b) The profit/loss for the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 is as follows:—

Year	Profit(+)/Loss(—) (Rs. in lakhs)
1985-86	(+) 23.63
1986-87	(+) 5.35

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The working of the Corporation is reviewed by the Government of India from time to time, with a view to improve its performance. The steps taken by the Corporation, to improve its profitability include, modification in the cropping pattern, improvement and augmentation of irrigation facilities, land development worsk and better marketing.

Special cells for recovery of PF arrears

*330 SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether special cells have been constituted to recover the PF arrears; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the nature of the assignment given to these special cells;

(c) whether it is a fact that recovery of huge PF arrears is pending at present against the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Kerala in case of its contract employees; if so, the details thereof and also the procedure adopted to recover the amount; and

(d) what steps are being taken to recover this amount and also to prosecute the FACT management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) 'Special Monitoring Cells' are at present functioning in Regional Offices of the Employee's Provident Fund in Kerala and certain other regions. These Cells keep watch on payment of contributions and to ensure speedy action for launching prosecutions/revenue recovery against defaulters.